

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. This Amendment currently amends claims 1 and 6. No new matter is added to currently amended claims 1 and 6. Claims 1 and 6 are currently amended to merely clarify the subject matter of the claims and in no way narrow the scope of the claims in order to overcome the prior art or for any other statutory purpose of patentability.

Notwithstanding any claim amendments of the present Amendment or those amendments that may be made later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,781,773 to Vanderpool et al. (hereinafter, Vanderpool). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vanderpool and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,941 to Rowe et al. (hereinafter, Rowe).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 1, is directed to an apparatus for controlling display of database search items that comprises a database storing an element-data storage table in which has been stored, on a field-by-field basis, element data corresponding to the fields, an item-name table which stipulates, field-by-field, an item name for being made to correspond with a database search-item name, and a display-item designation table in which display-item data for designating an item name to be displayed on a display unit has been stored, a select-command input device for applying a select command for designating a display item, a display-item data read-out device for reading out, from the display-item designation table, the display-item data that conforms to the select command applied by the select-command input device, an item-name read-out device for reading out, from the item-name table, an item name to be displayed on the display unit, the item name being designated by the display-item data read out by the display-item data read-out device, and a

display control unit for displaying an item name, which has been read out by the item-name read-out device, on the display unit as a database search-item name.

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 6, is directed to a method of controlling display of search items of a database storing an element-data storage table in which has been stored, on a field-by-field basis, element data corresponding to the fields, an item-name table which stipulates, field-by-field, an item name for being made to correspond with a database search-item name, and a display-item designation table in which display-item data for designating an item name to be displayed on a display unit has been stored. The method comprises applying a select command for designating a display item, reading out, from the display-item designation table, the display-item data that conforms to the select command applied, reading out, from the item-name table, an item name to be displayed on the display unit, the item name being designated by the display-item data read out, and displaying an item name, which has been read out, on the display unit as a database search-item name.

An exemplary aspect of the present invention is to allow a user not accustomed to using databases, the capability of making changes or additions to the search items of a database in a comparatively simple manner.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites at least the following features "a database storing an element-data storage table in which has been stored, on a field-by-field basis, element data corresponding to the fields, an item-name table which stipulates, field-by-field, an item name for being made to correspond with a database search-item name, and a display-item designation table in which display-item data for designating an item name to be displayed on a display unit has been stored." (emphasis added).

According to the present invention, the item-name definition table specifies an item name, itself, which is a name, displayed on the display device, and a display-item designation table specifies a display-item which is an item displayed on the display device.

Consequently, the item name, which is the name displayed on the display device, can be changed by changing the data stored in the display-item designation table without changing the structure of the database.

The Examiner alleges that "Vanderpool et al. discloses two tables contained within a database, one of these tables contains the full data items and user inputs including terms of search for the data items that are to be displayed, while the other table contains parts of the full data items that are to be displayed (Figure 5, column 6, lines 34-44 of Vanderpool et al.)." (Page 3 of the Office Action).

It is unclear to which structures in Vanderpool that the above "one of these tables" and "the other table" correspond.

Further, the Examiner states that "Vanderpool et al. does not disclose a system in which the relational database uses three tables for the search and display system. However, the table driven database disclosed by Vanderpool et al. has the same functionality as the Applicants' invention. There is no functional difference between one table that contains two delineated data types and two tables that contain only one type each." (Pages 3-4 of the Office Action).

Vanderpool discloses one table of a database that contains the full data items, presumably corresponding to the general-purpose table of the present invention, and user inputs for terms of search items, presumably corresponding to the search-item name of the item-name definition table of the present invention. In contrast, with the three tables of the present invention, the item name of the item-name definition table can be changed independently of any change to both the display of search items on the HTML search page and to the contents of the general-purpose table.

However, Vanderpool et al. does not have three tables, as the Examiner has pointed out.

Accordingly, Vanderpool et al. cannot change the terms of search items without also changing his one table of full data items, because both full data items and the user inputs for terms of search items are found in one and the same table.

Therefore, Vanderpool does not disclose, teach or suggest "a database storing an element-data storage table ..., an item-name table ..., and a display-item designation table," as recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Vanderpool does not disclose, teach or suggest every feature of independent claims 1 and 6.

Accordingly, Vanderpool does not render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vanderpool is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 2-5, the Examiner cites Rowe for disclosing a method of editing items in tables of a database.

However, Rowe does not cure the deficiencies of Vanderpool. Nowhere does Rowe disclose, teach or suggest the features of "a database storing an element-data storage table ..., an item-name table ..., and a display-item designation table," as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Vanderpool and Rowe, either individually or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest every feature of independent claim 1. Accordingly, Vanderpool and Rowe, either individually or in combination, do not render obvious the subject matter of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5, which depend from independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vanderpool in view of Rowe is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

On a separate page entitled "Amendments to the Specification" above, the Abstract has been amended.

On a separate page entitled "Amendments to the Figure Drawings" above, amendments made to the attached "Replacement Sheets" for Figs. 4, 6, and 17 are described.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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